

3-20-2014

# Governors State University's Social Work Department to Host Symposium on Violence Against Women

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## Recommended Citation

Office of Marketing and Communications, "Governors State University's Social Work Department to Host Symposium on Violence Against Women" (2014). *Press Releases*. Paper 83.  
[http://opus.govst.edu/press\\_releases/83](http://opus.govst.edu/press_releases/83)

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**From:** [Drakulich, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Governors State University -- Violence against women symposium  
**Date:** Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:57:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [BERheadshot.JPG](#)

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For Immediate Release

Attached image: Dr. Beth E. Richie, director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy at the University of Illinois – Chicago.

### **Governors State University's social work department to host symposium on violence against women**

University Park, Ill., March 20, 2014 – Governors State University will host a free public forum, “Conversations on Violence Against Women: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Intimate Partner Violence,” on Thursday, April 3, 2014, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Sherman Hall.

Dr. Beth E. Richie, director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy at the University of Illinois – Chicago, will discuss how race/ethnicity and social position affect women's experience of violence and incarceration. Following her discussion, a panel of local experts will address a variety of issues related to intimate partner violence. A question-and-answer session will follow the panel discussion.

#### **Featured speakers and their topics include:**

- **Dr. Beth Richie:** Dr. Richie is a professor of African American studies, gender and women's studies, criminology, law and justice and sociology at UIC. A multi-award winning scholar, Dr. Richie has earned the Audre Lorde Legacy Award, the Advocacy Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Visionary Award from the Violence Intervention Project, among others. Her most recent book, “Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's

Prison Nation,” chronicles the evolution of the contemporary anti-violence movement during the mass incarceration period in the United States.

- **Mildred Williamson, Ph.D., MSW:** Dr. Williamson is the HIV/AIDS Section Chief for the Illinois Department of Public Health. Dr. Williamson was the first administrator of the Women and Children HIV Program at Cook County Hospital, which is now one of the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center programs in the Cook County Health and Hospital Systems.
- **Larry W. Bennett, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW:** Dr. Bennett is an associate professor at Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois—Chicago. Prior to his work at Jane Addams, he worked for 20 years in community-based mental health settings and in independent practice specializing in court-ordered child custody evaluations. Dr. Bennett’s scholarship focuses on the co-occurrence of substance abuse conditions. He has more than 50 chapters and peer reviewed articles to his credit. Dr. Bennett also helped write the CSAT Treatment Protocol series, informing best practice with batterers.
- **Vickie Smith:** Ms. Smith has more than 30 years of experience in the battered women’s movement. Her experience spans direct service, launching a non-residential crisis intervention program, monitoring grants, and serving in her present capacity as the executive director of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Smith also has national experience as a founding board member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

The department of social work, the department of criminal justice, Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work (Omicron Beta Chapter) and the Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice are hosting this symposium. To attend, please contact Giesela Grumbach at [ggrumbach@govst.edu](mailto:ggrumbach@govst.edu), or call (708) 235-7690. Leave your name, email address and the number of people who will be attending.

Three continuing education units will be provided for practitioners.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois.